

INSTITUT-CANADIEN DE QUEBEC

Echos du 76e anniversaire

DE LA

NAISSANCE DE LONGFELLOW

27 Février 1883

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Nous publions, aujourd'hui, le discours prononcé, en cette circonstance, en anglais et en français, par M. H. J. B. Chouinard, président de l'Institut.

Réunis à la remarquable conférence de M. Stewart, ils formeront une jolie brochure, qui, nous l'espérons, sera publiée.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Since I have had the honor of presiding at the many literary and artistic assemblies held under the auspices of l'*Institut Canadien de Québec*, this is the first occasion on which I am called upon to address an audience in which the english speaking portion of our community are so numerously represented.

I am happy to welcome you, ladies and gentlemen, and to thank you for the kindness that you exhibit in responding to our cordial invitation.

Our lectures are almost exclusively given in the french language, because our Institute is essentially a body whose efforts aim at the development of french literature.

But we are most happy to tender occasionally to representatives of english art and science the hospitalities of our spacious new hall. And this is why, to-night, you are called to hear an english speaking lecturer; and why, again, on tues-

day next, you are all cordially invited to attend another intellectual feast which will be held in these rooms under the auspices of the Quebec Geographical Society; all are invited, and we can promise you an english speech by one of our oldest and most distinguished fellow citizens, colonel Rhodes, who will be seconded in french by a french-canadian explorer and hunter of renown, M. Comeau, of Labrador.

We are assembled to-night to commemorate the 76th anniversary of Longfellow's birthday. It has been our good fortune to secure the kind presence of a young English *littérateur*, who worthily represents his fellow countrymen in this respect, and who is ready and willing to afford the *Institut* the pleasure of reaping the results of his praise-worthy efforts to render the most eminent poet of the new world popular amongst us.

Literature is the patrimony of all mankind. Wherever it may have flourished, its master-pieces are the subject of praise of those who delight in the admiration of all that is grand, noble and beautiful. But among all there are two powerful streams of intellectual wealth which apart from the treasures of *antique genius* have obtained universal praise: I mean the treasures of french and english literature.

Where is the clime that has not echoed the strains of their eloquence, of their poetry, of their noble efforts to extend the bounds of intellectual development? But